

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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VIENNA FOR IAEA; GERMANTOWN FOR FRIEDMAN

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TECH JA, UR, OCON

SUBJ: USSR NUCLEAR POWER DELEGATION VISIT TO JAPAN

REFS: A) TOKYO 393; B) TOKYO 647

SUMMARY: USSR NUCLEAR POWER DELEGATION (REF A) COMPLETED ITS VISIT TO JAPAN ON JAN 17, 1974. MAJOR ITEM OF DISCUSSION DURING VISIT WAS POSSIBILITY OF USSR PROVIDING URANIUM ENRICHING SERVICES TO JAPAN. END SUMMARY.

2. THE USSR NUCLEAR POWER DELEGATION COMPLETED ITS VISIT TO JAPAN WITH A PRESS CONFERENCE ON JAN 17, 1974. DURING THEIR STAY THE TEAM VISITED THE FUKUSHIMA, TSURUGA AND MIHAMA NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS AND SEVERAL NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING FACILITIES AND MET WITH GOVERNMENT ATOMIC ENERGY OFFICIALS, THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION COMMITTEES OF THE DIET AND WITH ATOMIC INDUSTRY OFFICIALS.

2. THE VISIT RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL PRESS COVERAGE WITH MOST
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OF IT CENTERED

ON URANIUM ENRICHMENT AND SPENT FUEL REPROCESSING.
WHILE NOT CLEAR FROM PRESS REPORTS, AEC SCIREP HAS BEEN TOLD
THAT JAPANESE SIDE RAISED QUESTION OF FUEL REPROCESSING. SOVIET
TEAM INDICATED THAT THEIR POLICY WAS TO CONSIDER REPROCESSING
OF FUEL FROM REACTORS THEY HAD SOLD BUT THEY HAD NEVER CONSIDERED
QUESTION OF REPROCESSING OTHER FUEL. IF JAPANESE OFFICIALLY
PROPOSED THIS TO TECHSNA EXPORT, IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED.

3. REGARDING URANIUM ENRICHMENT, SOVIET TEAM SAID THAT USSR
WOULD BE PREPARED UNDERTAKE TOLL ENRICHMENT FOR JAPAN IF JAPAN
DESIRED. WHILE SOME PRESS REPORTS CONTAINED SPECIFIC STATEMENTS
RE TIMING AND QUANTITIES, AEC SCIREP UNDERSTANDS ACTUAL STATEMENTS
BY SOVIET TEAM TENDED BE MORE GENERALIZED AND PRESS COMMENTS
ARE BASED ON INFERENCES DRAWN BY INDIVIDUAL JAPANESE ATTENDEES
AT MEETINGS. APPARENTLY SOVIET TEAM POSITION WAS THAT USSR
WOULD BE PREPARED PROVIDE UP TO 1,000 TONS SWU/YEAR BEGINNING
AS EARLY AS 1976 WITH THIS AMOUNT EXPANDING TO 3,000 TO 4,000
TONS/YEAR IN EARLY 1980'S. IN ADDITION, SOVIET TEAM INDICATED
THEY WOULD BE WILLING PROVIDE ALL OF JAPAN'S ENRICHING SERVICES
REQUIREMENTS IN 1990 WITH IMPLICATION THIS WOULD BE DONE BY
EXPANDING CAPACITY. SOVIET TEAM EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR LONG-
TERM CONTRACTING ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT RULE OUT SPOT SALE
APPROACH.

4. RE CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS, ONLY SPECIFICS WERE THAT
JAPAN WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE ITS OWN NATURAL URANIUM FEED MATERIAL
AND THAT IT COULD BE IN FORM OF U F SUB SIX OR YELLOWCAKE.
RE OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS, THEY STATED THESE ARE MATTERS
FOR NEGOTIATION BUT POINTED OUT THAT OTHER CUSTOMERS, WITH
WHOM THEY HAVE NEGOTIATED OR ARE NEGOTIATING, HAVE STATED
THAT USSR TERMS AND CONDITIONS, INCLUDING PRICE, ARE BETTER
THAN THOSE OF USAEC.

5. A PEACEFUL USES GUARANTEE THROUGH IAEA WOULD BE REQUIRED
BY USSR ALTHOUGH NPT RATIFICATION WAS NOT REPEAT NOT A PRE-
CONDITION TO PROVIDING ENRICHING SERVICES. IN ADDITION, THEY
EXPRESSED A STRONG PREFERENCE FOR BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR
COOPERATION ON PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY BUT RECOGNIZED
THAT JAPANESE POLITICAL SITUATION MIGHT MAKE THAT DIFFICULT
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FOR NEAR FUTURE.

6. THUS FAR THERE IS LITTLE INDICATION OF JAPANESE REACTION
TO SOVIET OFFER EXCEPT THAT THEY WILL GIVE IT CAREFUL CONSIDERATION
OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS.
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